

HOLD CONVENTION HERE THIS WEEK

Tri-State Medical Association to Bring 300 Physicians From Three States.

MANY NOTED VISITORS, TOO

Following Usual Plan, Virginian Will Be Elected President for Next Year.

Nearly 300 of the most prominent physicians in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and a number of eminent specialists from other parts of the country, will arrive here today to attend the twelfth annual convention of the Tri-State Medical Association, the sessions of which will be held in the auditorium of the Jefferson Hotel, beginning to-morrow morning.

Aside from the election of officers and the appointment of committees, the business sessions will be taken up with the reading and discussions of papers, 104 of which are scheduled.

The association was organized twelve years ago for the purpose of more closely uniting professionally and socially the physicians of the three States. It has been most successful in this regard, and one of the strongest associations of its kind in the United States.

The officers are as follows: President, Dr. LeGrand Guerry, Columbia, S. C.; Vice-Presidents—Dr. Joseph A. White, Richmond; Dr. William W. McKenzie, Salisbury, N. C.; Dr. J. Wilkins, Greenville, S. C.; Secretary, Treasurer, Dr. J. Howell Way, Waynesville, N. C.

Executive Council—Dr. Stephen Harnsberger, Catlett, Va.; Dr. Stephen H. Taylor, Washington, N. C.; Dr. H. B. McConnell, Chester, S. C.; Dr. James S. Irvine, Danville, Va.; Dr. J. C. Caldwell, Charlotte, N. C.; Dr. E. B. Baker, Charleston, S. C.; Dr. Robert C. Bryan, Richmond; Dr. James A. Burroughs, Asheville, N. C.; Dr. R. H. Hughes, Laurens, S. C.

Committee on Arrangements—Dr. Joseph A. White, Dr. J. Shelton Horne, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Robert C. Bryan, Dr. George Ben Johnston, Dr. John C. Walton and Dr. Stuart McGuire.

According to the by-laws of the association, the president for the year following is always selected. Tomorrow morning the election will be held. In that way a president never presides in his own State. This session will elect a Virginia president, probably one of the local physicians. Next year's meeting will be held in North Carolina, most probably at Raleigh.

OPEN LETTERS GINGERLY, FOR THIS IS VALENTINE DAY

Custom Decrees That Privileged Communications Can Go Forth to Stab and Sting Without Fear of Criminal Libel.

Out of the shadowy mists of the past comes the legend of Valentine, the saint, who was put to death for his faith under the persecution of Claudius II, a Roman Emperor, February 14, 276 A. D., and the mingling of the old idea of sacredness with the modern instinct of love and mating.

Through long years of custom the day has become set apart as one for lovers to celebrate by the sending of anonymous missives, amatory or satirical, as the day on which to choose one's partner and sharer in life's sorrows, though the service in ancient days was to be but for a twelvemonth. In latter days it sometimes does not last a month, so much so that it lasts to the gates of the cemetery.

The custom of choosing Valentines on this day is of great antiquity, and it was an old belief that birds mate on this day. It birds mate, then why not man and woman? And so man and woman chose the same day picked out by the feathered beings to give vent to their amorous desires through anonymous missives and billet-doux (termed by some billy-ducks). For the girl the day is as much to be looked forward to as leap year, for Madam Grundy then holds it no crime for the woman to hint at the desire for her heart for the one man she has picked out from all the world.

But the custom is now somewhat degraded, for the Valentines are more often used as the means of preventing

further attentions from the man who is knock-kneed and blue-footed and to put a stop to further amorous glances from the old maid whose hair is stringy and thin and whose bones are prominent.

St. Valentine's festival means hard work for the post-office, for thousands of Valentines will be sent through the mails. Hundreds of people will take advantage of the day to send "privileged communications" to their friends, some of the "privileged communications" depicting the person addressed with a headlight on his nose or ears dapping to every breeze that blows.

This is one day on which "criminal libel" is permitted by law. One can send almost anything to his dearest enemy, but the latter has the privilege of replying in the same manner. Refuse to send a Valentine, and "criminal libel" is, of course, taken behind anonymity, for the law will not take as evidence hearsay evidence or guesses as to the writer's identity. So it is pretty safe to tell one's old sweetheart that she is no longer loved and that the rings may be returned by the first mail, or that the writer may no longer love her. Coy maids may on the other hand, bespeak their love and their charms with such verses as "If you love me as I love you, no knife can cut our love in two."

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BOARD TO CONCUR BY BIG MAJORITY

Consolidation Ordinance Will Reach Mayor for His Approval This Week.

BUT FIGHT KEEPS WARM

Business People Not Willing to Lose Now Through Over-confidence.

Although business people are still working and putting forth every effort to secure a big vote for the fight looking ahead, the Board of Aldermen to-morrow night will concur with the Common Council and adopt the consolidation ordinance, sending it to Mayor Richardson for his approval. It will not meet its death in the hands of the executive, and, therefore, the battle, more than half won, will be transferred to Manchester for final decision.

The Chamber of Commerce, which took hold of the matter, never lost its head through over-confidence. Indeed, the chamber worked night and day for a big majority vote. The leaders knew all along that the measure would pass the lower branch, yet the issue was one of such tremendous importance that advocates of union never quit fighting, and they haven't quit now.

Eleven Votes Pass It. There are twenty-one members of the board. Eleven votes will be sufficient on concurrence, and more than eleven members are ready to cast their ballots for consolidation. With the big pressure which was brought to bear upon it in the lower branch, the ordinance is expected to pass the upper branch.

It will take some days for the city clerk to have the ordinance properly engrossed for consideration by Mayor Richardson, though he will doubtless have it by Saturday, so that the work may begin next week in the Southside city.

Manchester in Line. Sentiment in Manchester is strongly in favor of consolidation. The ordinance over there must take the same course as it did in Richmond, and then the question must be submitted to a vote of the people, where it will pass by a majority vote. The element opposed will not be able, it is claimed, to rally enough strength to defeat it, and with the State law amended, the measure will become law in time for the combined population of the cities to be counted in the next census as the population of Richmond.

The utmost gratification has been expressed by citizens generally over the prompt and patriotic manner in which the Common Council acted. While some members were opposed, they contended that they simply held that view because they believed the terms were too liberal toward Manchester. But admitting that, the floor leaders for annexation pointed out that, admitting for the sake of argument that the conditions were liberal, Richmond had more to gain in the end than it could possibly lose. The feeling as expressed in debate was rather resentful toward the mass meeting Thursday night, in which forty-two citizens adopted resolutions asking the Council to kill something for which the commercial organizations, the bankers and the merchants and citizens were vitally pleading.

Measure Safe, He Says. "I don't think the advocates of consolidation should have any fear about what the Aldermen will do," said a member of the Board yesterday. "For it is certain to concur. It could not do anything else. At first I was put down in the doubtful column, but I have been impressed with the argument and by the fact that it is the proper thing. You never saw any big civic movement in your life in which everybody was of one mind. You never will, but I want to say that when the business people get together and urge something their desire cannot be thrown aside lightly. Then all of the local newspapers have been preaching for it. I took occasion to spend Saturday afternoon in Manchester, and I found there that the action of the Common Council was being largely and widely commended, and I found that sentiment as a whole was strongly for annexation."

There is no use in trying to sound the alarm, he said. The Aldermen are in line, and at least a large majority are in line, and those opposed put up the stock argument which is easily shattered and answered. My own idea is that we will vote Tuesday night and be glad of the opportunity of enrolling our names for a measure which means so much to the people."

Manchester next week will occupy the spotlight.

BODY OF MRS. SEAL TAKEN TO NORFOLK FOR INTERMENT

The body of Mrs. John R. Seal, of Charleston, W. Va., who died in that city last morning, was brought through Richmond yesterday morning en route to Norfolk, where the funeral took place yesterday afternoon.

SKILLITT MEETS WOMEN WHO BOOST NEW WRINKLES

Delegation Calls on Floating Delegate in Interest of Good Legislation, but He Turns It Quickly Into Oo-Long Party, Spiked.

"On the level, Bud," said Floating Delegate Bill Skillitt, who came into town yesterday to look after his fences, "on the level, I say. I've got to trim my line of talk. They used to tell me that silence was golden, but how about Nebraska Bryan speaking his own mind?"

He was talking to a delegation of women who had come to see him at his home in the Antilles at \$2 a throw? But I drift. Things have been so up in air here of late that I'm even afraid to say that my friend, Clyde Saunders, is looking after his own printing shop. But I've got the notion that things are going to be better—when the women do the voting instead of the work.

Some of my friends have been busy in my humble behalf, and they are going to ask Judge Mann to put me on the Corporation Commission. They have two lawyers on it now. Why not have a rabbi hunter as the third member? Besides, I know something about farming; I've coated crossties, and there I'm qualified to pass on the value of railroad property. Say, if I get that job I'm going to get a private car. Me and Nish will give parties to Old Point and the Hot. I'll stand on the back platform and speak at every station till I make Nebraska Bryan look like a deaf and dumb man. I'll play for fun, and I'll send my nine boys away, deadhead, just to telegraph them, deadhead, to come home, deadhead. Little Silas, my boy, who has come back from college to spend Lent, in a suit that makes him look like a skyraper, put the notion in my head. Silas is a traveling piece of stuff. If I get that job I'll put every one of my boys in the Capitol. What do I care about negotiating so long as we get away with the goods. But I won't have the job if I've got to quit drinking licker."

"What's been happening down to the farm? Well, listen. Do you know I received a delegation of women folks came over the other day to see me and ask me to sign a petition for the amendment of the female ballot. They wanted laws relating to the length of rainy day skirts; they wanted a law to enable a girl to keep the ring after giving her second husband the double cross and the other day they wanted to regulate dry goods stores so that a woman caught copying the garment of another woman would be burned at the stake, or words to that effect. They wanted to change the whist rules to legitimize a snook lead; they wanted a commission created to regulate the price of Easter bunnies, and they wanted everything, to be honest, from a whatnot in law to a whatnot in the front drawing room, though why they call it a drawing room beats me. But they didn't play fair. They made the Dumbarton widow snuggle up as chairman of the delegation, and you know that to Nish—well, there's nothing doing, as that divorce law is so raw it is apt to be killed. But getting back to the State-wide talk, I told them that if

they insisted on passing it I'd pass a law to require all women to be bound to a chair, while a matron would be ordered to pour red lemonade into their system by a tube till they got daffy for the sight of a near-beer. Honest, I believe I scared them away from the idea.

"I told them that if they kept up that kind of talk I'd start a paper of my own that would be so wet you wouldn't have to deal in fire insurance. I'd make it so, I added, that every time a man went in a bar and registered for a drink he'd get a year's subscription—that I'd put licker in the reach of the poor so they could fatten up."

"But pretty soon I got tired of that line of talk, and I invited the bunch to have a little Oo-long, properly stabled. When everybody got merry the widow said we ought to have a Valentine party, but I told her it was too expensive when the revenue license tax was so high. Every time she took a little more of that stashed tea the widow got more frisky, then she challenged me to compare my Valentine's verse in ten seconds. Nine seconds thereafter I gave her this: Nish beats nine spots when she makes a flash, but you ought to see Nish eat rabbit hash. The widow laughed till she choked; I beat her in the back, while Nish handed the tea again. Then old Henderson, who wears his grandfather's deer, asked me to give him something about licker, whereat I handed him the story of Nathaniel Ware, who wishes he'd never been born, who made his money in liquid air and spent it for liquid corn. More coughs by the widow; more Oo-long. But if I had kept on rhyming till the midnight bells were chiming and the barkeep had been licking me on the shelf, I'd be thirsty till this morning, which would be a bitter warning, and I'd have to take the blame upon myself."

"And then I told them about a law I was framing up—a law to stop idle gossip in Hibernia-racker. No family has suffered more than the Skillitts. They have roasted me and Nish and the boys, who wouldn't do nobody no harm. They have even branded me as a drunkard, when I'm a teetotal teetotaler. They have accused Nish of being a social four-flusher; they have said enough mean things to drive me into solitude, but I want to say that I'm going after that bill, and if I don't get it through I'll retire from public life. You ought to see them women sit up, guilty-like, and take notes. Even the widow got pale under the law. The court didn't have to instruct the jury except to name the term. We are going to put a muzzle on the knockers of Hibernia-racker; we'll make them lose their jobs and hike out to Danville or some other seaport town to knock there. But they can't stay around me or mine. We are going to make the city of Hibernia-racker like a withered deuce. It's the uplift for me. The delegation was duly impressed; I think my talk sobered them, and they went away, forgetting all about State-wide. I had them going, and when they went they were wiser, sadder, scareder, but I bet that when they got home what they said about me was more than enough. On this gossip platform I wouldn't stop to look in for Governor—I'd go to Nish—well, there's nothing doing, as that divorce law is so raw it is apt to be killed. But getting back to the State-wide talk, I told them that if

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RUSHING NOW TO END GREAT WORK

Only Four Weeks Remain for Legislature to Enact New Laws.

HOUSE GRIST IN SENATE

Long Debate Expected Over General Appropriation Bill. Many Local Measures.

Four weeks remain of the 1910 session of the General Assembly. The last day of actual work will be on Saturday, March 12, although tentative sessions, with half a dozen members present in each house, are likely to be held for a day or two later to allow the Lieutenant-Governor and the Speaker to sign bills.

During these four weeks most of the actual work of the session will be done. A great deal of the ordinary routine has been disposed of, including most of the local bills and those uncontested measures designed to correct real or imaginary defects in existing laws. The really contested bills are still ahead.

Although the Senate has passed the Fletcher tax equalization bill and has sent it over to the body on the eastern end of the Capitol, it has the permanent problems of taxation still before it. The Fletcher bill, as recorded as a temporary measure only, to apply to the real estate assessment of this year. More or less debate on tax matters is expected this week, including not only a tax commission or committee, as the case may be, but also matters with reference to increase in the public revenues.

The House has passed a sufficient number of bills to keep the Senate and its committee busy for some time to come, and a good deal of this sort of business will be taken up and disposed of during the next few days.

Spending the Money. As to the general appropriation bill, it is expected that not much more time will elapse before the Senate Finance Committee will be ready with a measure for the consideration of the body. It is reasonable to suppose that with the start which the Senate committee had in advance of the session the upper body will debate and pass a bill before the House is in position to do so.

As a matter of course, such a measure will be the subject of a great deal of debate. No one institution will get all it thinks it ought to have, and even after the Finance Committee makes up its mind what it ought to do and what it will do, individual Senators will endeavor to have their own ideas adopted, adding to or subtracting from whatever may be the bill reported.

The House has plenty of contested work ahead for the week, and some interesting debates are not at all improbable. Barring accidents, the fun will begin to-day. It was stated yesterday that not so many votes as were secured for the Throckmorton bill, providing for a State account and a uniform system of bookkeeping, as was the case Saturday, when four votes short of the constitutional number of fifty-one were registered for the measure. There seems to be some disposition to create this office to do work which has been done by others, for instance, are supposed to do with reference to the books of county treasurers.

Officer Is Needed. However, those who favor the bill are very much in earnest with regard to it, and insist that its passage is of the utmost importance to the State. It is pointed out that while the supervisors theoretically audit the treasurer's books, as a matter of fact they do so practically in but very few instances, and that it is unjust to expect them to make an expert examination. It is further pointed out that a uniform system of bookkeeping will greatly simplify the work in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts. It is supposed that every treasurer in the State is thoroughly honest, and if this be true no one of them could possibly object to an examination of his accounts, and those who are not thoroughly familiar with modern methods of bookkeeping will doubtless welcome the hints and adopt the rules laid down by the expert accountant, who will represent the people of the Commonwealth.

The appointment of such an officer was earnestly urged by Governor Swanson as a result of the examination made of the books of the departments at the seat of government, where, although nothing but honesty and earnest purpose was revealed, it became evident that the methods practiced were in some cases antiquated and unsatisfactory and were liable to subject the State to possible heavy losses.

Lack of cash is the only thing in the way of the passage of the bill appropriating \$50,000 for a monument at Gettysburg, which will come up this morning. Sentiment among the Legislators is all in favor of the proposition.

The fate of the measure establishing an advisory pardoning board and providing for an indeterminate sentence for criminals is very doubtful. On each occasion when this bill has come up on the calendar, a strong opposition has been developed, many of the members regarding the measure as taking away the practical operation of the jury system.

As to the optometry bill, it may become a law, but not without a fight. Another measure on which a debate is certain to ensue is that prohibiting the selection of a division or county school superintendent who is not a resident of the district over which he is to preside. It is up near the head of the calendar.

Differences of opinion will also occur over the sterilization bill, which aims to prevent procreation by congenitally criminals, idiots, imbeciles and others. A feeling exists among some of the members that Virginia is not ready for this sort of legislation. At least two more fights within the next day or two are ahead on the bill making four instead of two-year terms between local option elections, and on that providing for the election of members of the State Corporation Commission by a vote of the people. The latter has been unfavorably reported from the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

NOT CERTAIN HOW MANY PASSED EXAMINATION

It may probably be that Census Director Durand, if he is unable to complete his lists of enumerators in the various States from those who stood the recent tests, that a second test will be given. It cannot be determined now whether or not Supervisor Moore of the Third Virginia District will be able to secure a satisfactory list of 145 eligibles from the 200 or more who took the tests here and elsewhere in the surrounding counties, as the papers have not been examined.

As soon as Mr. Moore and his assistants have completed their work the list of those recommended for appointment will be sent to Washington, when experts there will confirm or reject those named for this important government work. The real work of enumeration will not begin until April 15, and as this allows six months in which to complete the roster, ample time is allowed to issue and execute an order for a new term. If another examination is ordered it is probable that those who failed to make satisfactory answers last time will be given a second trial.

The eligible register resulting from the examinations held October 23, 1909, for appointments on the additional office force at Washington, D. C., is apparently inadequate. Accordingly another examination will be held March 5. The scarcity of eligibles was chiefly in Western and Southern States. This examination relates exclusively to the office force at Washington, and has nothing to do with the appointments of enumerators.

CHINESE OBSERVE THEIR NEW YEAR

Small Richmond Colony Has Big Celebration in Honor of Happy Day. Far from their native shores, but still faithful to the customs of their childhood, the small Chinese colony here celebrated yesterday their New Year, which fell upon last Tuesday. The celebration was postponed to the day of rest because the Chinamen do not feast and visit on his working days. There is too much washing of other people's linen to do.

There are only eight or ten Chinese here, and instead of each having a quiet little celebration all alone, they met together at the shop of one of their number on lower Main Street. There were no fire-crackers, for it was Sunday, and they could not disturb the white man's Sabbath peace. But they feasted at an abundant table of Chinese delicacies, sang their Chinese songs, gave presents and reminiscences to each other, and then sat down for a quiet little game of cards.

The yellow man loves card games as much as the white man, and probably knows more about them. There was no reference to the late unpleasantness between the various tongues elsewhere, which has almost been forgotten. The Chinaman is a very peaceful man when he is peaceful, but he's a terrible fighter when he goes forth to avenge an ancient grievance. Instead of an interchange of hatchet blows and leaden balls, there was an exchange of red cards, red being the lucky color of China. If one failed to be present at the feast he would at least drop by and pay his visiting card to his friend in the street, and he himself and greet him with best wishes for a prosperous year and much laundry.

Must Pay All Debts. Far more than among the Occidentals, the Chinaman believes in settling up old debt scores and in really beginning his year anew. It is a law with him, as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, to pay off all his debts. When the New Year is well started there are no debts in the path to prosperity, no unpaid bills to haunt him during the hours of smoke and rest.

This is the beginning of the second year of the reign of the infant Emperor, Hsun Tung, as he is now called, and the Chinese drank their toasts to him, wishing to see his ruler across the seas the long continued favor of Heaven, the good will of the nations and peace interrupted. The festivities will be prolonged for a week in most places where there are larger colonies, but the celebration here lasted but the day.

Dr. Brady Seriously Ill. Colonel John W. Richardson received a telegram last night saying that his brother-in-law, Dr. E. T. Brady, was seriously ill at Abingdon, and not expected to live. Dr. Brady is president of the State Medical Society and a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners. He is one of the best-known and most prominent physicians in Virginia.

Break Into Pawnshop. Sam Stern's pawnshop, on Sixth Street, was broken into last night, and the stolen property was taken to the long continued pawnshop. It is probable that a pane of glass had been smashed, and investigation showed the reason.

CORIAL GREETING FOR NEW PASTOR

Dr. Fair Formally Installed at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

There was not a single vacant seat in the building last night when Rev. James Y. Fair, D. D., was formally installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, corner of Grove Avenue and Elm Street. Practically every member was present, and a great many from other churches of all denominations. After the exercises nearly every person present came to the pulpit and shook hands with the new pastor welcoming him to the church and the city.

The ceremonies were presided over by Rev. Frank T. McFadden, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, who propounded the constitutional questions to Dr. Fair and members of the church. Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., of the Second Presbyterian Church, preached the sermon on "The Church."

The charge to the pastor was delivered by Rev. John Calvin Stewart, D. D., of the Church of the Covenant, and the charge to the congregation by Rev. R. B. Eggleston, D. D., of the Third Presbyterian Church. The choir sang special music arranged for the occasion.

Dr. Fair, who is one of the most beloved ministers of this city, was for a number of years pastor of the Grace Street Presbyterian Church, but a few years ago accepted a charge with the Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah. When Westminster Church called him, although at a much smaller salary, he decided to return to this city, where he considered there was a wider field of usefulness.

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Southern Railway Earnings. Estimated earnings of the Southern Railway for the past ten days, as shown an increase of \$115,537 as compared with the corresponding week last year.

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"I shall be only too glad to give my testimony on behalf of the plucky little hero," said Mr. Maher yesterday. "I was an eyewitness to the tragedy, and can give every detail." Friends of young Cahen will probably have their papers prepared this week, and the application to the commission will be made through former Governor Montague. Cahen is a son of Samuel Cahen, of 2103 East Broad Street, and, if he secures the deserved recognition, he may be able to complete his education, which may be impossible otherwise.

RAID SKIN GAME

Officers Break Up House Complained of and Arrest Six Players. Because it had been frequently complained of by the police, a house at 619 Front Street was raided last night by Sergeant Kraft and Policemen Tomlinson, Schiller and Nelson, and six negroes were captured in a skin game. There was a wild scurry for the doors when the officers broke their way in, and all scrambled for the windows and doors. Several tried to crawl under the bed, but were promptly drawn out, and reminded that it would not be safe to run. The officers got all the money on the table and the cards.

Southern Railway Earnings. Estimated earnings of the Southern Railway for the past ten days, as shown an increase of \$115,537 as compared with the corresponding week last year.

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